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(iii) determining the amount of detectable signal in each window, to thereby detect the presence of the molecules, wherein detection of the first molecule is carried out by aligning a first inspection window within a region of the support that includes the first molecule and searching within the window to detect the first molecule.

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3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first inspection window defines a two-dimensional array of pixels and searching is carried out by scanning diagonally the array of pixels and determining values for the pixels.

4. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein, after detecting the first molecule, the first inspection window is repositioned or enlarged so that one or more of the discrete reaction sites is also located within the window, detecting the one or more sites and, by reference to the first molecule and the one or more sites, aligning a further inspection window in registration with each reaction site of the array.

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14. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the signal detected in step (i) must be above a pre-defined value in order to proceed with steps (ii) and (iii).

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending. In the Office Action, claims 15 and 16 are withdrawn from consideration; claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102; and claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4 and 14 are amended and claim 2 is canceled. No new matter is introduced. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).